

Amendments to the Specification:

After the title but before the first paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a 371 filing of PCT International application no. PCT/EP2003/012129 filed October 31, 2003 and published in German as WO 2004/048415 on June 10, 2004 which claims the priority of German application no. 102 55 144.8 filed November 26, 2002, the disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

On a separate page, page 32, please insert the following abstract:

**IDENTIFICATION OF TSH RECEPTOR AUTOANTIBODIES USING
AFFINITY-PURIFIED ANTIBODIES****ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to the use of affinity-purified polyclonal human autoantibodies against the TSH receptor (TSHR-Auto-Ab), obtained from the serum of Graves' disease patients and which have been purified to obtain biochemical homogeneity and comprise a specific activity of at least 1 IU/mg protein (human immunoglobulin). Also disclosed is the use of animal antibodies, which compete with the former for the binding sites of a functional human TSH receptor, as a specific binding reagent in an immunological determination method for the clinical identification of autoantibodies against the TSH receptor (TSHR-Auto-Ab) in a sample of a biological fluid of a patient to be examined for Graves' disease.